

Hawaii MARINE

INSIDE

Sponsorship	A-2
MCIWS	A-3
Linguist	A-5
Swap Meet	B-1
MCCS & SM&SP	B-2
Reunion	B-3
Word to Pass	B-4
Menu & Ads	B-5
Soccer	C-1
Sports Briefs	C-2
The Bottom Line	C-3
Memorial Day	D-1

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 22

WWW.MCBH.USMC.MIL

JUNE 3, 2005

Base bids aloha to CG, deputy

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, community is welcoming changes in command as well as saying farewell to two of the base's most influential leaders who are moving on to pursue new endeavors.

Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III, command-

ing general, MCB Hawaii, will be leaving Hawaii to take command of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan.

Colonel Richard C. Roten, deputy commander, MCB Hawaii, retired Wednesday after 31 years of service to the Corps; the last three of those years were spent here.

The new commanding general is scheduled to assume command of MCB Hawaii in

September. While the base awaits the arrival of its new CG, Col. Michael C. O'Neal, former chief of staff for U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Camp Smith, will assume the responsibilities as the deputy commander and as the commanding officer of Kaneohe Bay.

"I'm very comfortable in making this step," said O'Neal. "As the deputy commander, per the Marine Corps Manual, that is one of the

duties we have to be ready to carry out.

"I'm going to step up in command until our next commanding general takes command," O'Neal continued. "It is actually an exciting step, and I'm looking forward to it."

O'Neal is quickly becoming familiar with all the elements of the staff aboard Kaneohe Bay

See COMMAND, A-5

Cycle salute



Susana Choy

Steve Kalnasy, safety specialist with Base Safety Center aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, heads out of Sunday's 2005 Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, which thousands of veterans and civilians participated in. According to the Vietnam Vets/Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club, more than 3,500 motorcyclists, comprised of veterans, armed forces members and civilians, gathered before the ceremony to participate in the 18th Annual Candlelight Run to pay respects to those who served and continue to serve their country.

3/3 returns to Tora Bora for Operation Celtics

America's Battalion work with villagers, give aid

Sgt. 1st Class Rick Scavetta
U.S. Army

JALALABAD, Afghanistan — When the U.S. Marine Corps' 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, ventured into the Tora Bora mountains recently to hunt down enemy fighters, they instead found Afghans eager for a brighter future.

The mission, dubbed Operation Celtics, began as an offensive in an enemy sanctuary — the rugged mountains of Nangahar province that stretch along the Pakistan border. It was one of several missions launched last week by coalition troops to locate insurgents. Afghan National Army soldiers took part in the operations. Lima Company Marines were prepared for a fight, but

found themselves sipping tea with village elders.

In the first few days of the operation, the Marines distributed roughly eight tons of civic aid. And not a shot was fired.

"It's a sign of success that we're not getting shot at," said Capt. Eric Kelly, Lima Company commander.

Insurgents operating in the area would likely rely upon local villagers for support while transiting through the high-altitude passes, Kelly said. Marines patrolled into remote villages, set up security, and talked with local citizens to assess their needs and gain information on enemy activity.

Keying the radio, Kelly called to battalion headquarters at Jalalabad Airfield, where aviation assets from the U.S. Army's Fox Company, 3rd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment — known to troops as "Big Windy" — were on standby to air-



Spc. Harold Fields

A U.S. Marine shakes hands with an Afghan boy during a pause in operations in Nangarhar, Afghanistan, May 23. Marines of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, are conducting operations in concert with Afghanistan Army soldiers in the region.

See 3/3, A-6

U.S. Mint strikes Marine Corps commemorative coin

Press Release

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Mint in Philadelphia celebrated National Military Appreciation Month, May 25, with the ceremonial strike of a new commemorative coin, the 2005 Marine Corps 230th Anniversary Silver Dollar.

Current and former Marines cheered as Director Henrietta Holsman Fore and other dignitaries struck the coins in the Proof Room where the silver dollar will be produced. The official launch of the silver dollar will be at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., on July 20, U.S. Mint officials said.

This is the first time the United States has honored a branch of the military with a commemorative coin, according to information provided by the Mint. Surcharges from the sale of the silver dollars will be paid to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation to help construct the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico.

The obverse, or "heads" side, design of the coin features the raising of the American flag at Iwo Jima from the famous photograph by Joe

Rosenthal during World War II. On the reverse, "tails" side, is the Marine Corps eagle, globe and anchor emblem and motto, "Semper Fidelis" — Latin for "always faithful."

"The coin design is simple and heroic," Fore commented at the ceremony. "The Iwo Jima image is the storied symbol of the Marine Corps heroism, courage, strength and versatility. It exemplifies Semper Fidelis to an appreciative nation every day around the world."

"We are honored to be the first military serv-

ice to receive a commemorative coin issued by the United States Mint. And we are particularly pleased that proceeds from this coin will help build the Marine Corps National Museum in Quantico," said Marine Corps Assistant Commandant Gen. William L. Nyland. "I can think of no better way to honor our Marine men and women than to capture the proud history and heritage of the Marine Corps in a museum that will forever educate visitors from around the world about the role the Marines have played throughout world history, and will continue to play in the future."

Congress authorizes two official commemorative coins annually, and only the U.S. Mint may produce them.



2005 Marine Corps 230th Anniversary Silver Dollar



NEWS BRIEFS

MCCS Facilities Close for Inventory

Saturday, the Marine Corps Exchange Annex will close at 4 p.m. and the 7-Day Store and Package Store will close at 9 p.m. for inventory. Look for more temporary closure announcements as various Marine Corps Community Services facilities prepare for this annual procedure. For information, call 254-7539.

Road and Parking Lot Closure

Sections of Nimitz Road will be closed June 27 and 28 for paving and on July 6 for striping. During the road closure, a detour will be in place to route traffic away from the construction area. Pedestrians will only be allowed to cross in marked crosswalks. The B-503 Parking Lot will be closed from June 29 through July 5 for paving and on July 12 for striping. There will be a partial lane closure, but will allow two-way vehicular access from June 20 through 24 to facilitate curb/gutter removal and replacement.

Stand Up for America Fourth of July Parade

Each year, Stand Up for America participates in the Fourth of July Parade in Kailua. This is a patriotic parade that happens to be the largest Independence Day event on Oahu. This year, the theme of the 59th Annual Fourth of July Parade is “Kailua Honors American Heroes.” SUFA is inviting the loved ones of deployed service members, and recently returned service members to march in the parade. Participants are asked to bring an 8 inch by 10 inch, or larger, framed photo of loved one with them. The parade will begin July 4 at 10 a.m. on Kainalu Street, but all participants should arrive no later than 9:30 a.m. The parade ends at Kailua Intermediate School at approximately 12 p.m. For more information on SUFA, log onto their Web site at www.standupforamerica.net. To reserve a place in the parade, call or e-mail Mike Gabbard at 682-0618 or mike@standupforamerica.net.

New Death Gratuity Plan

President Bush has signed an \$82 billion emergency war-spending bill that includes provisions to raise the death gratuity from \$12,000 to \$100,000 for service members killed in areas designated as combat zones. The legislation also increases the maximum life insurance benefit for service members from \$250,000 to \$400,000. In addition, it authorizes payments of \$100,000 to members who lose a limb or suffer other types of traumatic injury. Contact Gunnery Sgt. John Hamilton at 257-8822 for more information.

Hawaii Marine Accepts Letters

The *Hawaii Marine* welcomes comments for the “Letters to the Editor” section. Letters should be clear and concise. The *Hawaii Marine* staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name and a telephone number must be provided. **E-Mail:** editor@hawaiimarine.com, with “Letters to the Editor” in the subject line. **Mail:** Public Affairs Office
Letters to the Editor
Bldg. 216, Box 63002
MCB Hawaii 96863
Fax: (808) 257-2511

HI 5¢ Redemption Sites

Automated redemption machines will be stationed in the parking lot across from the Exchange Annex furniture/toy/garden store Tuesdays and Fridays, 12 to 5 p.m. Call 257-4300 for more information.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380

Hawaii MARINE

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Public Affairs Officer	Maj. Patricia Johnson
Public Affairs/Press Chief	Gunnery Sgt. Claudia LaMantia
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The *Hawaii Marine* is an unofficial newspaper published every Friday by MidWeek Printing, Inc., 45-525 Luluku Road, Kaneohe, HI 96744, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Marine Corps, under exclusive contract to the U.S. Marine Corps. This civilian enterprise is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of the *Hawaii Marine* are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the United States Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps. All advertising is provided by MidWeek Printing, Inc., 529-4886. The appearance of advertising in the *Hawaii Marine*, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DoD, DoN or the U.S. Marine Corps of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in the *Hawaii Marine* shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. Editorial content or public service announcements (i.e., all content other than paid advertisements) is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Opinions expressed are not to be considered an official expression of the DoD or the U.S. Marine Corps. Submit items for the *Hawaii Marine* to PAO no later than noon on the Friday prior to publication, using the following addresses:

HAWAII MARINE, Box 63062, Building 216,
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Sponsorship is a privilege

Lt. Col. Loren D. Barney

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

The ability to sponsor guests aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is a privilege, not a right. Periodically, our Military Police apprehend/detain sponsored guests who go into unauthorized areas — most often at the beaches — or are engaging in unauthorized/illegal activity aboard the base, unbeknownst to their sponsors. Individuals who sponsor guests are responsible for the behavior of their guests at all times and will be held accountable for their guests’ conduct. In addition, individuals who violate the sponsorship rules below or who have guests who violate a provision in the Base Regulations may lose their sponsorship privileges. Often, individuals — military and civilian employee sponsors and their guests who are caught violating the Base Regulations, say that they are unfamiliar with the rules of sponsorship. The following are the most often asked questions regarding sponsorship:

Q. Who is allowed to sponsor others aboard MCB Hawaii?

A. Anyone who is 16 years of age or older and has a valid armed forces identification card or common access card. This includes family members, DoD civilian employees, Reservists, Guardsmen and retirees. Civilian contractors are not allowed to sponsor other individuals aboard the base.

Q. How many guests am I allowed to sponsor aboard the base?

A. Authorized individuals as stated above, are permitted to sponsor a total of three guests, each, to the beaches. There is no limit for other activities aboard the base.

Q. Are there any restrictions on who I may sponsor aboard the base?

A. All visitors/guests, commercial or personal guests of an authorized sponsor, may be permitted aboard MCB Hawaii. These visitors/guests include guests of a command; i.e., civilian members of athletic teams and youth groups, prospective Marines who have been recruited, but not called to active duty, and similar groups that may be billeted aboard MCB Hawaii and commercial vendors contracted to provide individuals with goods or services. Base departments may also sponsor civilian contractors, commercial vendors and local law enforcement officials, as needed.

Q. What is the proper method of sponsoring guests aboard the base?

A. When expecting guests, sponsors must provide advance notice to the Military Police Department at the H-3 Gate or Camp Smith Pass House.

Additionally, call-in sponsorship is allowed when using an MCB Hawaii phone prefix of 257, 254, or 253. Call-in sponsorship from a cell phone number is not accepted. Visitors arriving without prior notice must provide a telephone number to contact the sponsor. Inability to contact the sponsor may result in access denial to the base. The number for the Pass House on MCB Hawaii is 257-2047.

Q. Do my sponsored quest(s) have to be with me the entire time while aboard the base?

A. The sponsor need not accompany his/her guest(s) at all times except while on MCB Hawaii beaches. However, sponsors are still responsible for their guests’ conduct while aboard the base.

Q. What are my sponsored guests allowed to do while aboard the base?

A. Please remember that a pass issued authorizes access to the installation to engage in a designated activity. Violation of this authorization may result in the patrons losing their base access privileges. Properly sponsored guests are allowed to participate in all the MCCS activities while accompanied by their sponsor. They are not allowed to shop at the Commissary or Post Exchange. They may, however, accompany the sponsor to these facilities. All guests will be required to sign a visitor’s log and will be given an instruction card that explains the “do’s and don’ts” while at the Commissary.

Q. Are there guests or groups allowed on base without being sponsored?

See SPONSOR, A-8

Timely award



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Maj. Donald D. Welch Jr. (right), stands at the position of attention before receiving a Bronze Star Medal, May 27, for his services as the Detachment Officer-in-Charge, 3rd Radio Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force from October to September 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Welch is credited with providing critical intelligence support for I MEF while conducting combat operations against armed insurgents. He was also responsible for developing a concept of operations that enhanced the accuracy and speed when sending time-sensitive indications and increased mission successfulness.

Environmental honors



Assistant Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics-Facilities Brig. Gen. Willie J. Williams (left); Federal Environmental Executive Edwin Pinero; Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Pollution Prevention Program Manager Carolyn Irvin and Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Installations and Environment B. J. Penn display the Secretary of the Navy Environmental Award for Pollution Prevention for fiscal year 2004. Irvin accepted the award on behalf of MCB Hawaii’s Environmental Compliance and Protection Department during an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., at the U.S. Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center on May 3.

Photo Courtesy of Ben Zweig

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Partly cloudy with temporarily mostly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers in the evening, northeasterly winds at 8-10 mph
Night — Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers, easterly winds at 6 mph
High — 82
Low — 76

Saturday



Day — Partly cloudy with temporarily mostly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers, easterly winds at 10 mph with gusts to 15 mph
Night — Partly cloudy with temporarily mostly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers, easterly winds at 8 mph
High — 82
Low — 76

Sunday



Day — Partly cloudy with mostly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers in the morning and evening, easterly winds 8-10 mph with gusts to 15 mph
Night — Partly cloudy with some mostly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers, easterly winds 8 mph
High — 82
Low — 75

Pushed, pulled *and* dragged

12 of 21 Marines
complete MCIWS
training course

**Story and Photos By
Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**

Combat Correspondent

"This training was the hardest thing I've ever done before," admitted Sgt. Cary Cole, cannoneer, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion 12th Marine Regiment. "I figure, though, if I can do this, then I can do anything."

Cole, along with 12 other Marines, successfully completed the last Marine Combat Instructor Water Survival course of the summer. The class began with 21 Marines and finished with 12.

During the three-week long training, the Marines swam 1,500 meters in 33 minutes and less; performed a series of full-gear rescues; took a variety of difficult tests; conducted beach rescues; and swam 3,600 meters in full combat gear, stripping one piece of gear every 600 meters, according to Sgt. Ben Spahr, MCIWS course trainer for water survival, Regimental Schools. The last task seemed to be the defining moment of the course.

"There are a lot of benefits to completing the course though," said the Ventura, Calif. native. "Plus, it helps out the MCIWS instructors if every unit has at least one to qualify their own Marines for swim qualifications."

After successfully completing the course, the Marines will have a secondary Marine Occupational Specialty as an 8563, or Water Safety/Survival Instructor. This MOS qualifies them to run fourth-class swim qualifications, up to and including the two-week Combat Water Safety Swimmer school. They will also gain a variety of other qualifications.

The part that usually hits the Marines the hardest is the full-gear rescue practices, said Spahr.

"They aren't allowed to touch the sides of the pool for roughly two and a half hours, with the gear on, and must keep moving at all times to stay afloat," explained Spahr.

The reason for the high level of difficulty, according to Spahr, is because MCIWS is so different from any other kind of training.

"It's not like taking a PFT (Physical Fitness Test)," he said. "It's very different then what most are used to. I can say that it's probably the most difficult thing I've ever completed, as well. I have nothing but respect for all of the Marines who come out to do this. The ones who are still here deserve to be here. The ones who didn't make it this time but will come back, deserve just as much respect."

Spahr said he recommends that every unit send people to the next MCIWS course that is taking place in September, as it may be the last one for a long time.

"We need two instructors to teach the course, and we aren't going to have enough people after September," he said. "I want to encourage any unit on base to send whoever they possibly can."

Each unit should have someone who has been through the course to help qualify their own Marines, said Spahr.

"A lot of times, when units deploy, they wait until the last couple of weeks before sending Marines who need to qual. That leaves us jumping through hoops to get everyone qualified on time. If each unit has their own, it would be a big help."

For the Marines who completed the course, it was an accomplishment, but something that they don't want to do again, according to Cole.

For him, the reward of being able to wear what only MCIWS graduates are allowed to wear was worth the effort.

"In a way it's kind of like boot camp where you just go day to day, getting by," said the Phoenix, Ariz. native. "You try and think about something else, but then you realized you've earned the tan shorts, and it makes it all worth it."

Marines swim across the Base Pool, one simulating the rescue of another during the full-gear rescue practice. The training was part of the Marine Combat Instructor Water Survival course which was completed by 12 of the 21 Marines who started the course.



Above — During the full-gear rescue practice, Marines are instructed to push their rescuers under water, simulating a panicking victim. Marines who complete the Marine Combat Instructor Water Survival course will have a secondary Marine Occupational Specialty as an 8563, or Water Safety/Survival Instructor.

Right — A Marine concentrates on getting a breath during full-gear rescue practice. Part of the Marine Combat Instructor Water Survival course was to swim 3,600 meters in full combat gear, stripping one piece of gear every 600 meters.



Marines take in brief before long weekend

SAFE program warns of dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol

Pfc. Roger L. Nelson
Combat Correspondent

One of the biggest problems civilians and military personnel share is the growing number of deaths each year due to not wearing seat belts and driving under the influence, according to firefighter paramedics who teach a nationally known safety program.

Stay Alive From Education, an automotive safety program, was originally organized in 1989 by firefighter paramedics from Florida in an effort to help lessen injuries and deaths related to unsafe driving practices. SAFE was presented by state-certified members of this non-profit organization at the Base Theater, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, on May 26, to serve as a reminder for those driving during the Memorial Day weekend.

According to Clayton Lihilihi, MCB Hawaii,

safety paramedic, the SAFE lecture included information and reminders about the ongoing efforts of the “Click it or Ticket” program. Click it or Ticket was originally introduced in North Carolina in 1993 by former Governor, Jim Hunt, who wanted to increase safety belt and child safety seat usage throughout his state.

“We do these programs usually over the summer and long weekends,” said Scott T. McIntyre, firefighter and paramedic for Orlando, Fla., Fire Department and program coordinator for the SAFE program. “We travel around a lot and usually visit two or more bases a month.”

McIntyre said that the program is very successful and feedback from those who attend his briefings is always very positive.

“We had one Marine e-mail us and say that our program saved his life,” said the Orlando, Fla. native. “I guess he had gotten into a pretty serious car accident and put his seat belt on after coming to one of our programs.”

During SAFE briefings, facilitators showed pictures of accidents and accident victims as a



Pfc. Roger L. Nelson

Kirsten M. Svela, paramedic with the Tallahassee, Fla., Fire Department, uses Sgt. Salvador Cruz, security manager with Headquarters Battalion, as an example to demonstrate the affects of alcohol and why it’s not a good idea to drink and drive, during a Stay Alive From Education program briefing held May 26 at the Base Theater, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

way of persuading people to wear seat belts and not drink and drive.

“We feel if the attendees see what the paramedics see, then they will understand the importance of the safety belt,” said Lihilihi. “We didn’t want it to be death by PowerPoint so we put in a lot of interesting pictures and activities for the people who come to view the presentation.”

The program also urged people to have a bet-

ter perspective about seat belts and realize that not only is wearing a seat belt the law — it is also just a smart thing to do.

“What can be a greater feeling then doing these programs?” said McIntyre. “Because we see so much negativity in the world, we wanted to lessen that,” he admitted. “If we can get someone to think twice before drinking and driving or putting a seat belt on, then we’re getting our job done.”

For the graduates



Members of the National Naval Officers Association were at The Officers’ Club, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay on May 26, to present two local-area students with \$500 scholarships. The scholarships were presented to Danika Globokar (above right), 18, and Emily Marty, 17, for high academic standards, military interest, character, leadership skills, and other prestigious qualities. Globokar will graduate from Castle High School, where she main-



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

tained a 4.333 grade-point average. The Virginia Beach, Va. native said she plans to attend the University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla., where she will major in civil engineering. After she has graduated college, she said she intends to join the Navy as an officer. Marty is a Moanalua High School graduate who graduated in the top five percent of her class. She said that she will attend Florida State University, Tallahassee, Fla., for Neo-natal nursing training. She, too, said she plans, eventually, to join the armed forces.

Red Lions return



Pfc. Roger L. Nelson

Sgt. Jason D. Graul, NDI technician, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, kisses his wife, Jennifer, upon returning from deployment. During the unit deployment program, HMMH-363 performed routine deployment training such as amphibious landings and troop transportation. Half of the unit joined the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

To read the *Hawaii Marine* online, visit www.mcbh.usmc.mil.

Linguist leaves big impression in Iraq

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

“I volunteered to stay in Iraq so that I could feel as though I have the right to live in a country with so many freedoms and rights,” said a 21-year-old sergeant regarding his 13-month deployment. “It wasn’t about whether I liked or hated my time overseas, it was about helping people and doing the best I could to provide my services.”

Sergeant Gabriel F. Al-Rajhi, cytological Arabic linguist, 3rd Radio Battalion, left Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, in March 2004 with his unit for a six-month deployment to Iraq.

Once the end of the initial deployment neared, Al-Rajhi, an Anaheim, Calif. native who calls Saudi Arabia home, said he felt as though he hadn’t done all he could have and asked if he could stay for a few more months to help out wherever he was needed.

As an American military member, fluent in Arabic, his request did not take long to get approved.

“There was a short debate between the command in Iraq and my unit,” said the charismatic Marine, “but soon 3rd Radio Battalion left and I remained in Iraq, mainly to serve as a translator.”

Although Al-Rajhi was born in the U.S., his parents moved to Saudi Arabia when he was almost two years old. Once he graduated high school, he said his job options were limited. After talking with a friend about possibilities that were available to him, he decided to take his friend’s advice. That advice changed his future.

“I had a buddy that was a former airman. He told me about the benefits of being in the military in America,” said Al-Rajhi. “Since I was born in the U.S., I could join the military, and

they would pay me to go to school — which was what I really wanted to do. It sounded too good to be true.”

Al-Rajhi said he grew up in a country that does not recognize many of the rights Americans take for granted. Because of this, he decided he wanted to earn the right to live in the U.S., once he had completed his tour of duty with the military. Wanting a challenge, he asked his friend what the most difficult service he could enter would be.

“Without a second’s hesitation he said, ‘the United States Marine Corps,’” said Al-Rajhi. “I

said to him, that was what I wanted to do then.”

Even after that he said his buddy tried to convince him that the Marines were too tough and he should join another service, Al-Rajhi had already made his mind made up to join the Corps.

“I told him, my life has never been easy, and I am not about to start now,” he said.

That day he went to an all-night Internet café and called a Marine Corps recruiter to find out what he needed to do to join. Once he had all the facts, he quickly got his things together



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Sgt. Gabriel F. Al-Rajhi, cytological Arabic linguist, 3rd Radio Battalion, proudly stands at his unit’s headquarters after a 13-month long deployment to Iraq. The Saudi Arabia born Marine now feels he has earned the right to live in the United States.

COMMAND, From A-1

by visiting the various commands in order to understand all the different missions they perform and services they provide. This will aid him in the mission and in ensuring everything continues to run smoothly, as it has in the past.

“I’m not going to make any radical changes,” said the Joshua, Texas native. “Everything has really been working very well, and I would like to continue that. I feel as though it’s an honor and a privilege to take command this summer, and things are going to remain normal.”

Although there will be a different person in command, one thing remained the same in the eyes of both deputy commanders — that is the gratitude and pride regarding the community aboard the base.

Roten, who is planning to move to Virginia Beach, Va., to pursue a job as the director of global security operations for SCG Internet Risk, expressed mixed emotions

about his retirement. He spoke about how highly he regarded the people he has met here and how their professionalism has aided the Global

War on Terrorism effort. “The community on base is just a super group of people, military and family members alike,” said the New

Orleans, La. native. “That has really been the best part of this base. The Marines and Sailors are bearing the burden of combat

and left for Los Angeles.

He stepped on the “yellow footprints” in December 2001. Once he graduated boot camp and completed the school, which trained him for his Military Occupational Specialty, he received orders to his first duty station, K-Bay, where he arrived November 2003.

For the first six-months he was with 3rd Radio Battalion where he served as a linguist, performing signals intelligence tasks. He then took on new responsibilities as a translator. According to Al-Rajhi, that is when his experiences began to change and broaden to the point where he became the personal translator for Commanding General of 1 Marine Expeditionary Force.

“The position I gained through my understanding and knowledge of the Arabic language gave me more opportunities to make a difference than I could have imagined,” admitted Al-Rajhi.

During the next seven-months, he met and translated for well-known people, such as Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, the Prime Minister of Iraq, and many of the commanders and high-ranking military officers throughout various cities and bases in Iraq.

“I feel as though the liberties in the U.S. are taken for granted,” said Al-Rajhi. “Although I am an American citizen, I feel like I should earn my right to live in a country that offers its people so much.”

According to Al-Rajhi, by joining the Marine Corps he has been given the opportunity to earn his citizenship and place in the U.S.

“I have served in the Marine Corps and deployed to Iraq,” he said. “I think I have earned that right now.

“I would go back if I was needed, but for now, I am content with the things I did. I am just going to relax until I can figure out where the Corps will take me next.”

MarForPac
Band
Schedule

Today, 10 a.m.
New Base Chapel
Ceremony
Ceremonial Band
Base Chapel

Today, 5 p.m.
Assumption of
Command
Ceremonial Band
Pacific War Memorial

Saturday, 10 a.m.
Military Appreciation
Day
Ceremonial Band
Honolulu Zoo

Know your benefits

Extra pay helps out in high-cost areas

Press Release

U.S. Pacific Command

The Cost of Living Allowance is an allowance paid to service members stationed in high-cost areas to help maintain purchasing power. It is a cost comparison system that is based on the difference in prices in the local area that are compared to the prices of the same items purchased in the continental U.S.

The cost-of-living index, which measures the cost of living at a location out of the U.S. relative to the continental U.S. cost, is the same for all service members stationed at a particular location. COLA is a biweekly payment provided to approximately 280,000 members of the uniformed services stationed at one of 600 locations outside of the continental United States. The current size of the program, DoD-wide, is almost \$2 billion annually with



the average COLA amount being \$297 per month. In fiscal year 2004, Hawaii military members received \$187.1M in COLA.

The Per Diem Committee uses “spendable income” average tables computed for different family sizes and income levels to calculate COLA. Spendable income is total income minus housing expenses, taxes, savings, life insurance, and gift contributions.

The average tables are based on Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey data from the Department of Labor that show how military families typically spend their income. Therefore, individual service member's COLA payments vary substantially because spendable income varies by pay grade, number of dependents, and type of housing occupied.

A service member living in the barracks or aboard ship receives less COLA due to lower living expenses. Additionally, not everyone assigned overseas receives COLA. If the costs

of living in an overseas area are the same as, or lower than, it would cost to live in an average area in the United States, the area does not receive COLA. Service members can query COLA rates at secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/ocform.html

U.S. Pacific Command will conduct an online Living Pattern Survey during the of August and September timeframe for service members assigned to locations in Hawaii. The LPS collects information from individual members and their families about which specific stores they use to purchase goods and services on the economy. There is also a section that asks for the percentage of shopping done in local stores vice the percentage of shopping in government facilities. The Web site address for the LPS will be published through service component personnel offices later in June. LPS data will be used in the COLA analysis conducted in Spring 2006.

Contact Eddie Fowler, at Headquarters, U.S. Pacific Command at 477-1396 for more information.

Press Release

U.S. Pacific Command

Uniformed service members in the state of Hawaii will have an opportunity to take the Military Cost of Living Allowance survey, setting the standard for the next three years beginning Aug. 1. The Manpower, Personnel and Administration Directorate of U.S. Pacific Command is the lead activity for this survey. Extensive service component and Coast Guard support is needed to ensure this important quality of life action is performed correctly.

“The last Hawaii COLA survey conducted in 2003 resulted in a 16 index point increase distributed to military personnel assigned to the various Hawaiian Islands,” said Eddie Fowler, a personnel policy analyst with U.S. Pacific Command. In the last survey only 25.7 percent of eligible service members responded. The DoD's per diem, travel and transportation allowance committee, which oversees COLA as well as other allowances, uses two separate surveys to determine the relative cost of living in an area. In order to determine COLA for a given area, the committee tries to answer two basic questions: Where do military personnel shop, and what are the prices at these places?

The Living Pattern Survey/COLA

Survey is administered only once every three years. The survey is used to determine where service members shop and dine and how much they buy from the military commissaries and exchanges in comparison with services provided off post.

Based on the information given in the LPS, analysts will perform a Retail Price Survey, which establishes current prices on common goods and services.

The Hawaii market prices are then compared to the prices of the same goods and services on the mainland. The more things cost in Hawaii, the more COLA service members receive to help pay the extra costs associated with their cost of living.

The 2005 COLA Survey is important to all military personnel assigned to Hawaii. According to Flower, maximum participation and accurate information are essential to obtaining a valid statistical living pattern. The Web site address for the survey will be published through Service Component Personnel offices later in June. Input received will affect COLA rates established in April 2006.

The LPS data will affect COLA rates one way or the other, so the most important thing is that people participate.

Contact Eddie Fowler at 477-1396 for more information.

3/3, From A-1

lift bundles of civic aid.

Within minutes, Marines heard the heavy “thud-a-thud” of the CH-47 Chinook echoing through the valley. A U.S. Air Force controller working with the Marines popped a canister of green smoke to mark the landing zone and talked to the approaching Army pilot. Marines rushed into the blowing dust to pull bundles of supplies off the helicopter's back ramp.

“When fighting an insurgency, the way to win is to get the people on your side,” said 1st Lt. J.P. Sienicki, 25, of Long Valley, N.J. “When you’re handing out food and blankets to help people in this rugged, austere landscape, you’re helping out on the most personal level.”

Security during the mission was key, said Sienicki, Lima’s weapons platoon commander. The Marines were “set up for success” by having Air Force A-10, Thunderbolt II jet fighters overhead during the mission’s initial stage, he said. A platoon from the Afghan National Army marched alongside the Marines, contributing to interaction with the Afghan citizens and establishing perimeter security when the troops stopped near villages.

“If our Army works hard with the Americans and gets back on its feet, then we will no longer need the U.S. for support,” said Janet Ghul, an Afghan soldier from Chapahar province.

Ghul and his fellow Afghan troops use their knowledge of the local culture to assess progress during the military operations. Ghul recalled how the Russian soldiers stormed his home and killed his father. The coalition forces’ approach makes Afghans feel more comfortable, he said.

“Before, they did not like foreigners,” Ghul said. “Now, they see (the United States) building the country, and they are happy.”

On a ridge overlooking the Pachir Agam Valley, Marines set up camp outside the Gerakhil Primary School, a 12-room edifice built in 2004 by a U.S.-led provincial reconstruction team. About 700 local boys who once studied out in the open now have furnished classrooms, said Capt. Michael Greer, 35, an Army Reserve officer from the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion.

“You build a school, and you make people choose,” Greer said. “It’s either help from the Afghan government and its coalition allies or supporting the bad guys.”

Nearby, Afghan villagers clustered around the helicopter landing zone. Sgt. Joshua Allison, of Stroudsburg, Pa., spent the afternoon of his 23rd birthday loading the arms of Afghan boys with bundles of blankets, rugs, food and medicine. In the village, Navy Corpsman Daniel Mayberry, 21, of Gaithersburg, Md., began treating ailments and injuries in a makeshift clinic.

“We’re trying to better this country’s problems and let them know we care,” Mayberry said. “The local people are trying to get on with their everyday lives, and there’s people — Taliban and al Qaeda — threatening their lives. If we show them that we’re here to help, they may tell us where’s the bad guys with the

weapons.”

Gaining the locals’ trust is the only way to get their support, said Cpl. Stephen Patterson, 22, of Conyers, Ga.

Patterson often mans a 60 mm mortar on Marine firebases. But when he gets out on patrols, he sees the Afghanistan’s future in the

droves of children who swarm around Marines.

“There’s something about kids,” Patterson said. “Their parents saw what other foreign armies did here, but the kids are exposed to the way we are doing things. Maybe they can tell their parents about what we’re doing and remember what we’ve done for them.”

Tribute to the fallen



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Army Col. Jeanette McMahon, wife of fallen Army Lt. Col. Michael McMahon, and their children, (clockwise from back), Ricky, Mike and Thomas, pose, May 26, behind a plaque engraved with the late McMahon's name as well as police officer Glen A. Gasper, who was killed in the line of duty. St. John Vianney School's eighth grade students raised money for the plaque that was dedicated to the two fallen fathers who each had a child in eighth grade. The dedication ceremony took place at the school and included a lei presentation to the family members, "The Star Spangled Banner" sung by students from the eighth grade chorus and "Taps" played by a bugler. Although the eighth grade class is graduating and leaving the school, the memorial will always stand as a tribute to the two fathers for all to see.



SPONSOR, From A-2

A. All guests must be properly sponsored aboard MCB Hawaii. The commanding general has extended self-sponsorship to certain individuals. These groups and individuals are: Friends of K-Bay, retired civil service employees of MCB Hawaii, and fishermen who have been issued a permit by the Military Police Department. In essence, the commanding general has sponsored these individuals.

Q. What are civilian contractors allowed to do while aboard the base?

A. Civilian contractors who have been properly sponsored aboard the base to perform the contracted work are not authorized to participate in any of the MCCA activities — with the exception of purchasing meals to be consumed on the premises of such facilities as the food court, McDonald's, Subway or Papa John's Pizza. Civilian contractors are also not allowed to patronize the various clubs or beaches, unless invited and accompanied there by an authorized individual sponsor.

For those who fail to comply with the rules of proper sponsorship, the base will take the following actions:

First offense

A formal warning letter will be issued to the individual describing the violation and the rules for proper sponsorship.

The individual will be added to the base sponsorship violation tracker. The Pass House will verify that the sponsoring individual is in good standing prior to being authorized to sponsor a guest aboard MCB Hawaii.

Second offense

A formal Magistrate Hearing will be held with a command representative (for military member violations), military sponsor and command representative (for family member violations), or immediate superior (for civilian employee violations).

Loss of sponsorship privileges aboard MCB Hawaii for up to one year.

The base inspector will notify them of the terms of their sponsorship privilege suspension and will send a formal letter to the individual.

Third offense

Another formal Magistrate Hearing will be held as stated above.

Possible permanent loss of sponsorship privileges aboard MCB Hawaii.

The Base Inspector will notify them of their permanent sponsorship privilege revocation and will send a formal letter to individual.

Please help us safeguard our base and all of our citizens who reside therein by exercising responsible sponsorship.

DUIs are career killers

Editor's Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, individuals arrested for driving under the influence [DUI], driving while intoxicated or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the **Hawaii Marine** newspaper.

- May 13, Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph P. Cristostomo of VP-47. Driving under the influence, with a blood alcohol content of .14 percent.
- May 19, Sgt. Shaun Duggan of 3rd Marine Regiment. DUI with a BAC of .14 percent.
- May 19, Cpl. Matthew T. Schweigert of 1/3. DUI with a BAC of .08 percent.
- May 25, Cpl. Ronald M. Snyder of Headquarters Company, 1/12. DUI with a BAC of .16 percent.